

Calculations of kaonic nuclei based on chiral meson-baryon coupled channel interaction models

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Abstract. We present our latest calculations of K^- -nuclear quasi-bound states using a self-consistent scheme for constructing K^- -nuclear potentials from various subthreshold chirally inspired $\bar{K}N$ scattering amplitudes. We consider in-medium versions of the scattering amplitudes taking into account Pauli blocking in the intermediate states. The resulting K^- binding energies as well as the widths exhibit the same A dependence, however, the binding energies strongly depend on the model used.

1 Introduction

The aim of the present study is to compare the predictions for K^- -nuclear quasi-bound states calculated using different meson-baryon coupled channel interaction models: Prague (P NLO) [1], Kyoto-Munich (KM NLO) [2], Murcia (M1 and M2) [3], and Bonn (B2 and B4) [4]. They capture the physics of the $\Lambda(1405)$ and reproduce low energy K^-N observables, including the $1s$ level shift and width in the K^- hydrogen atom from the SIDDHARTA experiment [5]. However, the corresponding scattering amplitudes differ considerably below threshold, thus in the energy region relevant for K^- -nuclear bound-state calculations as shown in Figure 1.

2 Model

The binding energies B_{K^-} and widths Γ_{K^-} of K^- -nuclear quasi-bound states are obtained by solving the Klein-Gordon equation

$$\left[\omega_{K^-}^2 + \vec{\nabla}^2 - m_{K^-}^2 - \Pi_{K^-}(\vec{p}_{K^-}, \omega_{K^-}, \rho) \right] \phi_{K^-} = 0, \quad (1)$$

where $\omega_{K^-} = m_{K^-} - B_{K^-} - i\Gamma_{K^-}/2 - V_C = \tilde{\omega}_{K^-} - V_C$, m_{K^-} is the K^- mass, V_C is the Coulomb potential, and \vec{p}_{K^-} represents the kaon momentum. The self-energy operator Π_{K^-} is constructed in a tp form:

$$\Pi_{K^-} = 2\text{Re}(\tilde{\omega}_{K^-})V_{K^-} = -4\pi \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_N} \left(F_0 \frac{1}{2}\rho_p + F_1 \left(\frac{1}{2}\rho_p + \rho_n \right) \right), \quad (2)$$

where F_0 and F_1 denote the isospin 1 and 0 S-wave in-medium amplitudes, respectively, m_N is the

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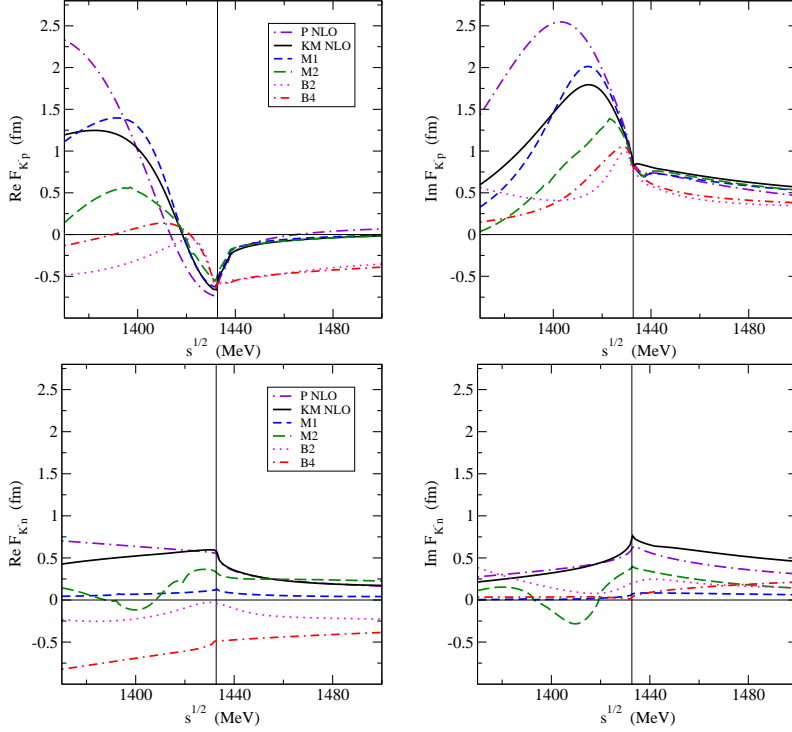


Figure 1. Energy dependence of real (left) and imaginary (right) parts of free-space K^-p (top) and K^-n (bottom) amplitudes in considered models.

nucleon mass and \sqrt{s} is the Mandelstam variable. The proton and neutron density distributions ρ_p and ρ_n are obtained within a relativistic mean-field model. The in-medium amplitudes F_0 and F_1 are obtained from the free-space amplitudes by applying the multiple scattering approach (WRW) [6] which accounts for Pauli correlations:

$$F_1 = \frac{F_{K^-n}(\sqrt{s})}{1 + \frac{1}{4}\xi_k \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_N} F_{K^-n}(\sqrt{s})\rho}, \quad F_0 = \frac{[2F_{K^-p}(\sqrt{s}) - F_{K^-n}(\sqrt{s})]}{1 + \frac{1}{4}\xi_k \frac{\sqrt{s}}{m_N} [2F_{K^-p}(\sqrt{s}) - F_{K^-n}(\sqrt{s})]\rho}, \quad (3)$$

where ξ_k is adopted from Ref. [6]. In the P NLO model [1], the integration in the underlying Green's function is limited to a certain domain due to the Pauli principle (Pauli) and the in-medium hadron self-energies (Pauli+SE) are considered as well. Figure 2 illustrates that WRW and Pauli approaches yield similar in-medium amplitudes in the subthreshold energy region relevant to our calculations.

The available energy \sqrt{s} in the laboratory frame acquires the form [7] (taking into account non-negligible contribution from particle momenta)

$$\sqrt{s} = m_N + m_{K^-} - B_N - \xi_N B_{K^-} + \xi_{K^-} \text{Re} \mathcal{V}_{K^-}(r) - \xi_N T_N \left(\frac{\rho}{\rho_0} \right)^{2/3}, \quad (4)$$

where B_N is the average binding energy per nucleon, $\xi_{N(K^-)} = m_{N(K^-)}/(m_N + m_{K^-})$, T_N is the nucleon kinetic energy determined from the Fermi Gas model, and $\mathcal{V}_{K^-} = V_{K^-} + V_C$.

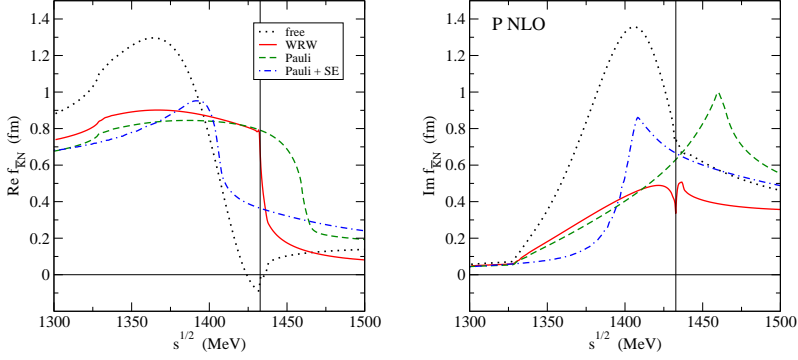


Figure 2. Energy dependence of free-space (dotted line) $f_{KN} = \frac{1}{2}(F_{K^-p} + F_{K^-n})$ amplitude compared with WRW modified amplitude (solid line), Pauli (dashed line), and Pauli + SE (dot-dashed line) modified amplitude for $\rho_0 = 0.17 \text{ fm}^{-3}$ in the P NLO model.

3 Results

With the formalism introduced above we performed self-consistent calculations of K^- quasi-bound states in nuclei across the periodic table. In Figure 3, we present the $1s$ K^- binding energies B_{K^-} and corresponding widths Γ_{K^-} as a function of the mass number calculated for different baryon-meson interaction models. The K^- binding energies exhibit considerable model dependence, nevertheless their A dependence is very similar in all models considered. The K^- widths show rather weak A dependence except for the M2 model. The KM NLO model predicts widths twice as large as the P NLO and M1 models. Within the Bonn models B2 and B4, we did not succeed to obtain any bound states since the real parts of the K^-N amplitudes are weakly attractive or even repulsive below threshold (see Figure 1). In Figure 4, the K^- spectrum in ^{40}Ca calculated for various models is shown. Again, the K^- binding energies strongly depend on the model used. In the P NLO and KM NLO

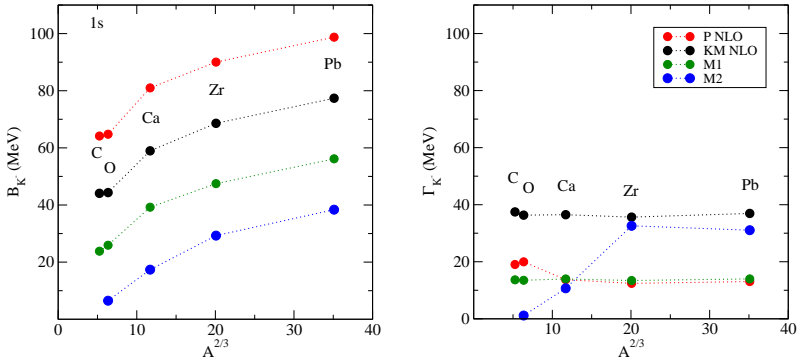


Figure 3. $1s$ K^- binding energies (left) and corresponding widths (right) in various nuclei calculated self-consistently in the P NLO, KM NLO, M1, and M2 models. $K^-NN \rightarrow YN$ ($Y = \Lambda, \Sigma$) decay modes are not considered.

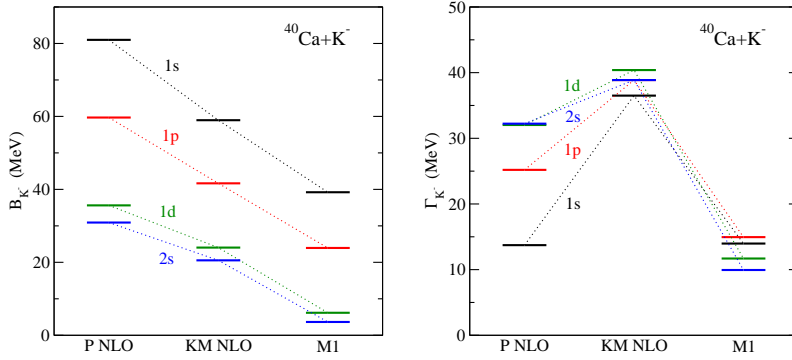


Figure 4. K^- binding energies (left) and widths (right) in s , p and d levels in ^{40}Ca calculated self-consistently in the P NLO, KM NLO, and M1 models. $K^-NN \rightarrow YN$ decay modes are not considered.

models, the K^- in the $1s$ state has the smallest $K^-N \rightarrow \pi Y$ conversion width due to the considerable energy shift towards the $\pi\Sigma$ threshold. The K^- widths of excited states grow as the \sqrt{s} moves farther from the $\pi\Sigma$ threshold. However, in the M1 model the widths follow the opposite trend. It is due to the fact that \sqrt{s} is much closer to the $\bar{K}N$ threshold where the imaginary part of the K^-p amplitude starts to decrease (see Figure 1).

It is to be noted that the core polarization caused by K^- was not taken into account in the present calculations. Previous studies of kaonic nuclei [8] found this effect quite mild, adding up to 5 MeV to K^- binding energies. Moreover, the annihilation of K^- on 2 nucleons [8] should be considered as well, since it increases the width by almost 50 MeV and, consequently, even the $1s$ state K^- widths become comparable with the binding energies. We intend to include both effects mentioned above in the upcoming calculations.

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